



NCLS @ CCESS

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*Keeping the lines of communication open
in the North Country Library System.*

March 2006



Contact State Legislators about State Library Aid

On Tuesday, March 14th, NYLA representatives and representatives from libraries of all types across NY state will meet with state legislators in Albany for "Library Lobby Day". If you are interested in attending Lobby Day in Albany and would like to know the schedule of meetings with legislators, you can go to: www.nnyln.net and click on "News".

Now is the time to contact your state legislators as they prepare for legislative sessions to finalize the state budget in March and April. We must convince our legislators that public libraries and library systems are in need and should be a priority this year in the budget. Eight years (since 1998) is a very long time to go without an increase in funding and will have disastrous results for libraries and library systems if this trend is not reversed.

A sample letter and petition have been placed on the NCLS web site: www.nclsweb.org. Feel free to use these documents or write your own letter to your legislators detailing your concerns about state library funding. Letters do not need to be long or include statistics and figures; a personal message about what libraries mean to you is just as important.

To remind you what the legislative priorities for libraries are this year, here is a list of the items that public libraries and library systems need the most:

- \$1.85 million increase for state construction grants
- \$7 million for NOVEL
- \$3 million for library systems

For current news and updates about the state budget and library legislation, go to: www.nyla.org

NCLS Open House on April 7th

The Annual NCLS Open House is scheduled for Friday, April 7th from 9am to 4pm.

This year, in addition to member libraries and legislators, area non-profit agencies and organizations are being invited to visit NCLS and learn about the resources we can offer to enhance the missions of those organizations and better serve their clients.

Another change in the Open House will be the addition of short, fifteen-minute presentations being given throughout the day in the meeting room. Schedules of presentations will be posted at the door, so attendees can feel free to explore the center and drop in on the presentations they may be interested in with no sign-up or registration required.

We are also fortunate to have **North Country Reads** author Jennifer Donnelly with us from 9am to 10am. Bring your copy of *A Northern Light* and have it signed!

All library staff, trustees, friends, and volunteers are invited and encouraged to attend!

Blizzard at NCLS!



The NCLS Service Center closed early (4pm) on Monday, February 6th, but it proved not to be early enough! The NCLS delivery van got stuck in the driveway and staff members pitched in to get the van out and clear out the lot enough for staff vehicles to get out safely. The snow accumulated very quickly and took us all off guard! Winter has finally arrived!

Spotlight on Continuing Education

“School Ballots Work!” January 10th at NCLS



First NCLS workshops of 2006

The “School Ballots Work!” Round-Table Discussion Workshops on January 10th (NCLS) and 11th (NNYLN) were very well attended and received positive reviews. Consultant Amy Degnan facilitated the discussions and several member library managers and trustees were invited to share their experiences with the groups. The attendees appeared to enjoy the discussion format and several libraries have decided to put a proposition on their school district ballot this year as a result of what they learned at the workshop.

“Webinars” are coming!

The high cost of gas and large geographic area of the system has prompted NCLS to look into new technology that will allow library staff, trustees, and friends to participate in training sessions given by NCLS from their own home or local library.

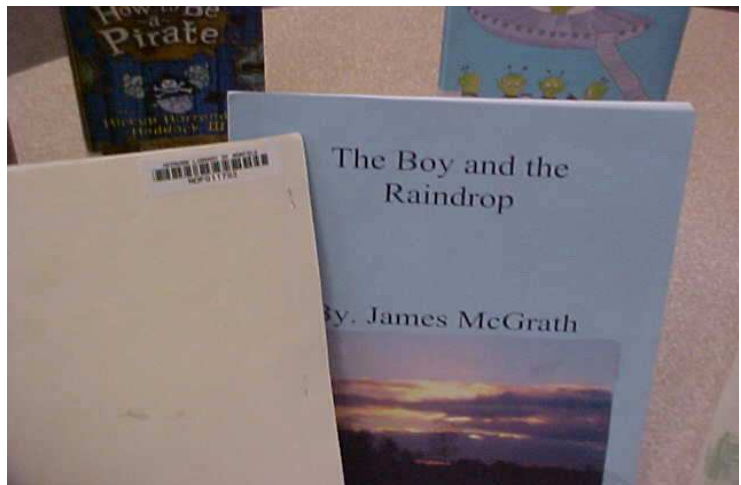
Through the magic of what is referred to as a “webinar”, registered participants will receive instructions from NCLS prior to the training session, which will involve logging onto a web site and dialing an 800 number. Once logged on to the web site, the participants will be able to view on their own computer screen all the actions the instructor is taking on his/her computer. Dialing in to the 800 number will enable teleconferencing with the instructor as well as the other participants.

Keep an eye on the NCLS web site for more information and announcement of the first scheduled webinar!

Norfolk Library’s “Published Author”

One February afternoon, Norfolk, NY—

While most of his classmates hurriedly finish schoolwork and move on to play a game of chess or checkers before heading home for dinner, one ten year old patron feverishly types away on one of the library’s public computers. He tells library manager, Vicky Brothers, that he is working on the finishing touches of his “book”, which he then asks her to read. Ms. Vicky obliges the young boy and after reading the short story, realizes that she is in the presence of real talent, leading her to proclaim, “this is great!” The talented young patron then asks Ms. Vicky if she would please put one of those “things” on the back of the book



so that it could be published. The “thing”, of course, is a bar-code, which the boy innocently believed would make his book published! Ms. Vicky did put a bar-code on the book and created a short record in the online library catalog, which pleased the budding author to no end. As it turns out, the book has circulated a number of times and the “published author” has added a few more to the collection!

Libraries Across the Nation

Struggles and Successes

- The Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System (NY) will close 16 branches by the end of 2005, leaving 36 remaining branches with reduced hours, staffing, and services. 280 full and part time employees were laid off at the end of December 2005.
- **In the Southern Tier of NY, the libraries of Chemung County were successful in forming a new library district (Chemung County Library District) funded by the voters of the district with nearly \$2 million after their funding from the county was reduced by more than 50%.**
- Thirty-one of 36 library branches in San Diego (CA) lost about seven hours a week since July 18, 2005 because of budget constraints. The Mission Valley branch, which has more visitors annually than any other branch, was forced to cut 31 of its 76 weekly hours.
- **The South Carolina legislature has more than doubled the amount of aid it will provide to libraries, increasing the allocation from 82 cents to \$2 per capita, or from \$3.8 million to \$8.1 million, in fiscal year 2006.**
- Even though the Denver Public Library system has been ranked among the best in the nation for several years, the system could be facing major changes due to budget cuts. As part of the proposed city budget, some of the libraries may have to cut their hours from 30 minutes to as much as 10 hours. The new books and materials budget has been cut by over 33 percent. Eight job vacancies will not be filled.

Calendar of Events

March 2006:

www.nclsweb.org
Click on "Event Registration"



- 7– Computer Doctor
NCLS, 9:30am-12pm
- 8– Computer Doctor
NNYLN, 10am-12:30pm
- 14– HeritageQuest Online
NCLS, 9:30am-12pm
- 14– NYLA Library Lobby Day
in Albany, NY
- 15– HeritageQuest Online
NNYLN 9:30am-12pm
- 23– NCLS Board of Trustees Meeting
NCLS, 9:30am
- 28– Summer Reading Planning Workshop
NCLS, 9:30am-12pm
- 29– Summer Reading Planning Workshop
NNYLN, 10am-12:30pm

Getting to Know NCLS Staff: Kathy VanNess

Kathy grew up in Connecticut and attended Forman Boarding School in Litchfield before moving to Dexter, NY in her senior year and graduating from General Brown High School. She works in the Technical Services Department here at NCLS taking care of Interlibrary Loan, circulation, processing, and other duties of the department. She has been at NCLS since November 2004.

Kathy and her husband, Dave, have three great kids named Mike, Dave, and Jen. She also has two sisters and a brother who she met when she was 30 (she was adopted as an infant). She says meeting her biological family was the best thing she has ever done and can't imagine life without them now.

Making people laugh is one of Kathy's best talents (trust me!). We all love having her here at NCLS. In her free time she loves to spend time with family and go camping.

Favorite movie: *Jaws*

Favorite book: *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt



Automation Update

The Annie P. Ainsworth Memorial Library in Sandy Creek has completed bar-coding their collection and adding patrons to the database and will begin using the SIRSI automated circulation system on March 8, 2006. Congratulations!

The William H. Bush Memorial Library in Martinsburg will begin SIRSI training and bar-coding their collection this month with the help of a very enthusiastic group of trustees and volunteers!

If your library is interested in learning more about automation, please contact your Consultant at NCLS.



If your library has newsworthy information to share in *NCLS Access*, please contact Amy Degnan at NCLS: 782-5540 or adegnan@ncls.org

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